

ONSTAGE  
IN NEW JERSEY

# TRADITIONS *in* TRANSITION

Women

Hazelle!

Bluestory!

Marcus Roberts and Ellis Marsalis

Taj Mahal

Jazz Jam with a Poetry Slam

The Blind Boys of Alabama  
featuring Clarence Fountain

Maceo Parker

Ernestine Anderson

Brewery Puppet Troupe

Sweet Honey In The Rock

March 3 - June 24, 1995





# BLACK CULTURE *On Tour* IN AMERICA

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE IN AMERICA  
FOR QUALITY PROGRAMS IN  
THEATER • DANCE • MUSIC • FILM AND LITERARY ARTS  
CELEBRATING THE BLACK EXPERIENCE

**P**OETS/ **W**RITERS/ **S**PEAKERS Gil Noble

Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu • The Okantah-Gould Project  
Mwatabu Okantah • Sonia Sanchez • John S. Patterson

**D**ANCE The Okra Dance Company • Odadaa! • United Ballet  
Africaine Featuring Mor Thiam • Rod Rodgers Dance Company, Inc.  
The Dinizulu African Dancers, Drummers & Singers

**T**HEATER Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee • Pin Points Theatre  
In Bed With the Blues: The Adventures of Fishy Waters  
featuring Guy Davis • The Ensemble Theatre Company

**M**USIC *Classical* Oscar Petty *Ethnic/Traditional* Pan  
Jersey Steel Orchestra • Return To The Source • Universal Language  
Ensemble • Women's Sekere Ensemble • Voices of the Folk  
Ella Jenkins • WOMEN *Choral* Newark Boys Chorus • The North  
Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club *Gospel* Donald Malloy  
Sister Sadie and the Famous Biblettes *Jazz* Steve Colson  
Bennie Maupin • Bradford Hayes

**F**ILM Kathe Sandler

## BOOKING INFORMATION

Interested sponsors should contact Black Culture On Tour In America, Carter G. Woodson Foundation,  
P. O. Box 1025, Newark, NJ 07101, or for immediate information on company availability,  
performance fees, press materials and technical requirements call 201-242-0500.



ONSTAGE  
IN NEW JERSEY

# IONS in TRANSITION

Ellis Marsalis

Taj Mahal

with a Poetry Slam

Blind Boys of Alabama featuring Clarence Fountain

Maceo Parker

Ernestine Anderson

Brewery Puppet Troupe

Sweet Honey In The Rock



# TRADITIONS in TRANSITION

Americans are always in transition. They are constantly running away from what is "old" and toward some unknown "newness," always defined as "better." In Albert Murray's *The Hero and the Blues*, there's a quote that explores this no-win situation. "Essentially, questions about experimentation and the arts are also questions about the relevance of tradition. They're questions about the practical application of traditional elements to contemporary problem situations. Hence, they are also questions about change and continuity. Indeed, they are specifically concerned with the requirements for continuation, which is to say, endurance, which is also to say, survival. Implicitly, experimentation is also an action taken to ensure that nothing endures which is not workable. As such, far from being anti-traditional, as is often assumed, it actually serves the best interests of tradition."

This year, the Carter G. Woodson Foundation's OnStage In New Jersey series proudly presents **Traditions In Transition**. For us, **Traditions In Transition** has many meanings; organizationally, artistically, and geographically.

Over the past two years the Foundation has gone through an organizational transition with the departure of its founder, Philip Thomas. As we move into the 21st century under new leadership, maintaining a traditional approach to celebrating the creative expressions of African Americans becomes more challenging. The Foundation looks forward to expanding its audiences, working in collaboration with other arts organizations and increasing the number of performances within its performing arts series, **OnStage In New Jersey**.

Artistically, **Traditions In Transition** can be seen with the pairing of several **OnStage In New Jersey** artists. Noted Rhythm & Blues artist **Maceo Parker**, has been coupled with young Jazz artist **Christian McBride**, both with a connection to James Brown. Cross generations of mellow

sounds can be heard from **Ernestine Anderson**, **Lillette Jenkins-Wisner** and **Judy Bady** and through the piano performances of **Marcus Roberts** and **Ellis Marsalis**. Expounding on the tradition of African American roots in music is **Taj Mahal** and **Sweet Honey In The Rock**. Examples of old traditions made current are: **Jazz Jam with a Poetry Slam**, a combination of Blues, Jazz, and Poetry; **The Blind Boys of Alabama** featuring **Clarence Fountain**, who represent the traditional style Gospel music that our parents and grandparents grew-up with compared to the young exciting sounds of **Minister Darryl Cherry** and **the Covenant Mass Choir** and **The Linden High School Gospel Choir**; and **Hazelle**, a one-woman show whose work consists of drama and comedy and whose career is truly in transition moving from regional to national prominence.

1995's **OnStage In New Jersey** has expanded geographically to include more of southern and central New Jersey. In Red Bank and Trenton you will find Blues masters, **John Cephas** and **Phil Wiggins** paired with America's favorite storyteller, **Jackie Torrence**, and in Plainfield, **The Brewery Puppet Troupe's "Crowtations"**. Also featured in Plainfield, Newark, and Belmar will be **"Women,"** a journey by three women who use music to discover where life has taken them.

It is important for you, our audience, to continue to cherish and support the Woodson Foundation. Please understand that our task is not completed. **The Carter G. Woodson Foundation is a Tradition In Transition.**

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Sweet Honey In The Rock



# TRADITIONS in TRANSITION

## WOMEN



Journey with "Women" through their memories and experiences collectively and individually using music of the 60's, 70's and 80's to discover where life has taken them and where they are headed. "Women" is the combined styles of Ebony Jo-Ann, Irene Datcher and Gina Breedlove creating a jazzy-soul blend.

**Friday, March 3**  
Ruben's Restaurant & Supper Club  
21 Court Street, Newark  
8PM

**Saturday, March 4**  
Black United Fund Community Center Complex  
403 W. 7th Street, Plainfield  
8PM

**Sunday, March 5**  
Jason's Jazz & Blues Club  
1604 F Street, Belmar  
7PM

Co-sponsored by Ruben's Restaurant and Supper Club, Black United Fund of NJ, Jason's Jazz & Blues Club and WBCO/88.3FM

## HAZELLE!



Vivacious and engaging actress/writer Hazelle Goodman is a one woman tour de force whose work consists of innovative drama and comedy. Drawing from the arena of life, Hazelle brings many faces to the stage with her - all shaded with perceptive and not so-subtle truths.

**Saturday, March 18**  
Newark Symphony Hall-Theater Space  
1020 Broad Street, Newark  
8PM



## BLUESTORY!

Great for the entire family! Blues masters, John Cephas and Phil Wiggins have gotten together with Jackie Torrence, America's favorite storyteller, to create this eye-opening new work. The artists will perform both individually and together to give the audience a fresh look at the Blues as literature as well as music.

**Friday, March 24**  
Red Bank Regional High School  
101 Ridge Road, Little Silver  
8PM

Co-sponsored by The Arts Guild of St. Agnes's Episcopal Church, Asbury Park and The New Jersey State Museum

**Saturday, March 25**  
New Jersey State Museum  
205 West State Street, Trenton  
8PM



## MARCUS ROBERTS & ELLIS MARSALIS

Together, each master perched at their respective Steinways, facing one another, Marcus Roberts and Ellis Marsalis perform a program of solo and duo Jazz piano improvisation. The interaction between the two players - separated in age by more than thirty years - is one of respect and slight competitive interplay.

**Saturday, April 8**  
Montclair High School  
100 Chestnut Street, Montclair  
8PM  
Co-sponsored by WBCO/88.3FM

## JAZZ JAM with a POETRY SLAM (FREE)\*



An evening with old traditions brought current - the poet and music in harmony. The music is Blues and Jazz which work in concert with the spoken word. Among the featured artists are Tracie Morris, Miles Griffith, Poetry for Your Ear Productions with Clyde Wray, and The Syretta Thompson Trio.

**Saturday, April 22**  
Van Fossan Theater  
Bloomfield College  
467 Franklin Street, Bloomfield  
7PM

Co-sponsored by Bloomfield College, Office of College Relations and WBCO/88.3FM

## TAJ MAHAL



Performing African-American roots music for thirty years, Taj Mahal is one of our most versatile interpreters of Blues in the broadest sense, from funky to sophisticated. Expounding on the tradition is the opening act, Keb' Mo', whose recent self-titled album on the Okeh label is receiving rave reviews.

**Friday, April 14**  
Pollak Auditorium  
Monmouth College  
Cedar Avenue, Long Branch  
8PM

Co-sponsored by the Jersey Shore Jazz & Blues Foundation and WBCO/88.3FM

## THE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA featuring CLARENCE FOUNTAIN



For five decades, The Blind Boys of Alabama have been thrilling religious and secular audiences alike with their impassioned, electrifying Gospel music. Opening acts for the concert will be Minister Darryl Cherry & The Covenant Mass Choir and The Linden High School Gospel Choir.

**Saturday, May 13**  
Union County Arts Center  
1601 Irving Street, Rahway  
7PM

Co-sponsored by the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs





## MACEO PARKER

**M**aceo Parker as a Jazz musician, may come as a shock to fans who remember him for his days as the alto saxophonist in James Brown's band. But since 1990, his legions of funkateers has been joined by new Jazz fans. Opening act, bassist, **Christian McBride's** idol is James Brown, with proof being the title track from his new Verve album, "Gettin' To It."

**Saturday, May 20**  
East Orange High School  
34 N. Walnut Street, East Orange  
**8PM**

Co-sponsored by the City of East Orange and WBCO/88.3FM



## ERNESTINE ANDERSON

**T**hree time Grammy nominee, **Ernestine Anderson** specializes in the sort of smooth and sultry sound that simmers with sophistication, reflecting the rich and mellow hues of a career that spans six decades. Vocalists, **Lillette Jenkins-Wisner** and **Judy Bady** will also be featured.

**Friday, June 9**  
Newark Symphony Hall  
Terrace Ballroom  
1020 Broad Street, Newark  
**8PM**

Co-sponsored by WBCO/88.3FM

## THE BREWERY PUPPET TROUPE'S "CROWTATIONS"

**T**he **Brewery Puppet Troupe** is the first African American puppet company to gain recognition on Broadway, network television and in night clubs. Their best known production currently is the "**Crowtations**," a group of high-flying, smooth-sounding, foot-kicking characters. A "must-see" for the entire family.

**Saturday, June 17**  
Black United Fund Community  
Center Complex  
403 W. 7th Street, Plainfield  
**4PM**

Co-sponsored by Black United Fund of NJ and the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs



## SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

**A**lways a standing-room-only sellout, **Sweet Honey In The Rock**, a female quintet, is bound to captivate any audience, as they sing unaccompanied, except for body and hand percussion instruments. This concert will be signed for the hearing impaired.

**Saturday, June 24**  
McCarter Theatre  
91 University Place, Princeton  
**8PM**

Presented by the **McCarter Theatre** in collaboration with the Woodson Foundation







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**Saturday, June 24**  
McCarter Theatre  
91 University Place, Princeton  
**8PM**

Presented by the **McCarter Theatre** in collaboration with the Woodson Foundation

